

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Selectmen present were: Wes Moore, Michael Woodworth, and James McIlroy. Others present were: Reuben Hull, Jack Shaw, Maureen Smith, Chief Reed, Steve Shope (via telephone), and Larry Arend.

Reuben, Jack, and Maureen attended the meeting to give the final report from the Buildings and Facilities Advisory Committee to the Selectmen. This Committee was formed over two years ago and was charged with collecting data, but not to offer any opinions. The data was for buildings only, no open space or parking lots. The complete report is available at the Town Office for review.

According to the report, the Town has enough space for its current needs and has a small amount of additional space available. The old Post Office and the Town Hall have available space at this time. The wants of the various departments leaves a shortfall of space of 5,148 feet.

Wes feels this is a great report, but the Town does not have the funds to proceed with a wish list for the various departments. However, the Police Department does need more space.

Jack feels the Town should hang onto the old Post Office building for the future needs of the Town. James said the townspeople are expecting a plan for use of the building. However, this does not mean that we have to spend money but should have a plan for the townspeople to consider.

Jack is happy that the Selectmen are not looking for four million dollars to build a new municipal complex. However, the old Post Office building does need some work to make it presentable and the regular upkeep must be done. Jack and Wes will meet at the building to go over it and figure out what needs to be done for general maintenance. They will make a list of items that need repairs and the costs for those repairs.

It was determined that the Police Department is a high priority. It was noted that the library has its own funding in place for expansion.

It was asked if the Town has guaranteed access to the Newfields Elementary School for town functions such as elections, deliberative session, etc. Wes will check with Dennis Dobe, the School Principal, to confirm that the school is available.

James thanked the Committee Members for their hard work. The Selectmen will review the report and get back to the BFC with their comments and a new direction for the Committee. He would like to have a plan in place in the next three to six months for the various departments' needs along with a timeline.

Jack said they need to make sure that the "needs" include room for growth so that the space won't be obsolete in two years or so.

Chief Reed informed the Selectmen that he will be attending the Policy Academy and that there is a grant that will pay the wages for whoever covers the shifts that he will be missing in Newfields. If the Chief is unable to find someone to cover his shift, he will not attend the Academy that day – he will not leave the Town without coverage. He also stated that the Town will need to pay the wages for the person covering for him and then be reimbursed by the grant.

James made a motion to not further pursue interest charges on the judgement paid to the Town by the Estate of Armand Mastropietro. Interest was not included in the Court's final judgement. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor. Nancy was asked to notify the Town Counsel of this decision.

The progress report on the Piscassic Greenway was approved and Nancy was asked to forward it to Grants Online for NOAA.

Nancy was asked to contact Gordon Fowler (the roofer) to look at the cupola on the Town Hall when it is raining in order to determine where the water is coming in and to make the necessary repairs.

Wes made a motion to accept the proposal of \$1,850.00 from Larry Shaw, Custom Woodworking – Builder – Remodeler to spackle and paint specific sections inside the Town Hall. The Town will be receiving another check from the insurance company which will pay for most of this work. Nancy will advise Larry that his proposal was accepted and to schedule the work so as not to interfere with anything taking place in the Town Hall.

Wes said that the Conservation Commission would like to place a temporary sign at the head of the Conner Lane trailhead to prohibit use of the trails during the mud season. Steve Shope of the Conservation Commission spoke with the Selectmen by telephone and stated that they would like to place an 8 ½"x11" aluminum sign that states trail access is closed for the mud season. This would apply to all traffic – foot, bicycle, etc. The sign would be up for approximately two to three weeks and that he would put it up and take it down.

James asked if this is allowed under the deed. Steve said Sue McKinnon at the Town Office could not find the deed. He had asked her if the deed permitted motorcycles on the property.

Steve stated that Exeter has been putting up a similar sign for two years and the only complaint was that the time the trails were closed was from January 15th to April 15th. Exeter then changed the time period for the length of the mud season only.

Wes made a motion to authorize the Conservation Commission to erect a sign at the Town Forest trailhead that access is closed for mud season and to remove the sign when mud season is over. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Steve will report back to the Selectmen in April after mud season has ended to let them know how it worked out and if there were any complaints or problems.

Wes made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 20th meeting as amended. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

The Selectmen are still looking for residents interested in serving on the Dispatch Advisory Committee. Anyone interested should contact the Town Office.

Larry Arend advised the Selectmen that his road race will be held on June 23, 2007. He will have the necessary Certificate of Insurance sent to the Town Office prior to the race. Larry stated he has notified the Chief of Police of the race date. He will also contact the Deertrees Association for permission to park vehicles on their land for the duration of the race.

Larry stated that the Library has enough funds for a parking lot behind the library building and presented those plans to the Selectmen. The plan calls for a gravel driveway and parking lot.

Wes suggested that Larry contact the Department of Transportation regarding the current driveway and the plans to make changes to it. Larry was also advised to speak with Reuben Hull, the Town Planner, for advice and guidance on the process to install the driveway and parking lot.

Nancy was asked to contact Chief Reed and ask him to e-mail his proposed changes to the Personnel Policy to the Selectmen for review.

Wes nominated Michael Woodworth to research telephone and internet services provided to the Town for the best service and pricing. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Janet Smith was scheduled to meet with the Selectmen at 8:00pm. She was unable to attend the meeting and will re-schedule for another time.

Checks were signed.

Raymond LaBranche was re-appointed to the Conservation Commission.

David Sweet and Oakes Lawrence were both re-appointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Discussion on the legal bills to the Conservation Commission was tabled until Alison Watts of the Conservation Commission is able to attend a meeting.

Correspondence from the Rockingham Planning Commission was reviewed.

The Special Permit which Dragon Mosquito obtained from the State on behalf of Newfields was reviewed.

Correspondence from Pam Abbott, Trustee of the Trust Funds, was reviewed with regard to Water Department funds.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50pm. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted.

Nancy J. Spencer